

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 03503 120951Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 DODE-00 /015 W
-----120955Z 033897 /22

R 120433Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 867

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3503

FOR NEA/PAB - LANDE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (GENERAL ZIA-UL-HAQ
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PAKISTAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF

1. PAKISTAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL ZIA-UL-HAQ, WILL BE VISITING THE STATES AS OFFICIAL GUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY FROM MAY 9-18. DOD IS PUTTING TOGETHER HIS PROGRAM WORKING WITH DAO ISLAMABAD. COL BLOTTIE, ARMY ATTACHE, WILL ACCOMPANY THE GENERAL ON HIS VISIT. PLANNING THE TRIP IS CONTINUING ALTHOUGH WE REALIZE THAT SWIFT DETERIORATION IN POLITICAL SITUATION HERE COULD CAUSE CANCELLATION.

2. WE THINK IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IF ZIA CALLED ON SEVERAL STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS DURING HIS VISIT. AS YOU KNOW, HE IS PERSONABLE, ARTICULATE AND AMBITIOUS CHIEF OF STAFF. WE BELIEVE SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH RESPONSIBLE RANKING OFFICERS IN THE DEPARTMENT, IN GIVING ZIA IMMEDIATE EXPOSURE TO STATE POLICYMAKERS, WOULD HELP HIM GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR CONCERNS REGARDING ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN. OUR OWN OFFICIALS CAN BENEFIT FROM A MEETING WITH ZIA WHO CAN SUCCINCTLY - AND IN A NON-CONTENTIOUSMANNER - EXPLAIN THE PAKISTAN MILITARY'S NEEDS AND CONCERNS. FINALLY, AS YOU CAN APPRECIATE, IF THE PAKISTAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION REMAINS UNEASY, ZIA'S ROLE COULD WELL BE ENHANCED.
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3. WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE CHIEF OF STAFF CALL ON ROY ATHERTON AND EITHER LES GELB OR LUCY BENSON. WE THINK TWO CALLS SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT, AND ATHERTON AND BENSON OR GELB WILL GIVE THE CHIEF OF STAFF THE VIEW FROM BOTH THE BUREAU AND THE SEVENTH FLOOR.

4. ZIA'S PROGRAM IS BEING COORDINATED IN DEFENSE BY THE
FOREIGN LIAISON OFFICE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF
OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.
BYROADE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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